

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 /040 W

----- 104344

R 211222Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3089

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6927

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: PRACHATHIPATAI ARTICLE ON FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEW OF THAI
U.S. RELATIONS

REF: FBIS BK 21 1100Z APR 75

1. WE WISH TO CALL TO ATTENTION THE REFERENCED FBIS ITEM WHICH CARRIES AN ARTICLE IN THE THAI LANGUAGE DAILY PRACHATHIPATAI OF 21 APRIL 75. THE ARTICLE CARRIES THE HEADLINE "FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYS UNITED STATES TAKES ADVANTAGES: THAILAND WILL DEFINITELY HAVE TO BECOME SOCIALIST." THE ARTICLE REPORTS A "HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS" SAYING THAT THAILAND NO LONGER HAS CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES AS AN ALLY BECAUSE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IS VACILLATING AND UNCERTAIN. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THAILAND WILL INSTEAD TURN TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AS ALLIES.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM ANOTHER REPORTER WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING THAT THE HIGH OFFICIAL IN QUESTION IS PHIRAT ITSARASENA, CHIEF OF THE PRESS DIVISION, INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, MFA. ALSO PRESENT DURING THE INTERVIEW WAS PRACHA KUNAKASEM, INFORMATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR GENERAL. BOTH OFFICIALS TOLD THE INTERVIEWERS THAT THEY WERE SPEAKING OFF THE RECORD.

3. COMMENT. PHIRAT HAS LONG BEEN A THORN IN OUR SIDE, AND HIS UTTERANCES, HOWEVER DAMAGING, DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT
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THE OFFICIAL AND CONSIDERED POLICY OF THE MFA, LET ALONE THE

RTG. WHILE WE CAN EXPRESS OUR CHAGRIN AT THIS KIND OF TALK TO
PRACHA AND OTHER MFA OFFICIALS, WE DOUBT THAT AN OFFICIAL
COMPLAINT WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE.
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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